

Electronic Waste Landfill Disposal Ban

The E-scrap Framing Committee's Position on an E-Scrap Disposal Ban



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The purpose of the E-scrap Framing Committee is to set up a process for the E-scrap Stakeholder Workgroup to review possible ways to manage electronic waste in Missouri. This includes discussions on if and how to dispose, reuse, remanufacture, and recycle electronic waste in a way that adds to the Missouri economy without threatening the environment. The E-scrap Framing Committee looks to do this for everyone interested in E-scrap solutions for Missouri.

During this process, the E-scrap Stakeholder Workgroup will need to discuss a number of topics. One topic of discussion is the option of banning electronic waste disposal in landfills. After a long debate, the E-scrap Framing Committee decided that this option should be postponed until other questions are answered first.

- How are the countless entities across Missouri currently handling E-scrap? What problems or threats to human health and the environment are resulting or could result from these practices?
- What regulatory requirements or best management practices should be in place to make sure that E-scrap is properly handled?
- How will the various components of E-scrap be regulated or monitored and by whom?
- Should E-scrap processors be required to get a permit or will a "best management practices" policy be enough?
- If a permit will be needed, what will be the requirements?
- Should there be any siting requirements? If so, what are they?
- What opportunities exist in Missouri for E-scrap facility locations?
- Should financial assurance be required? If not, what financial mechanism will the state (or local jurisdiction) pursue for cleanup of abandoned E-scrap processing sites?
- How will workers be protected at these facilities?
- How does the E-scrap industry suggest disposing certain materials?
- Do the environmental impacts and economics of an E-scrap ban vs. recovery make sense? If so, under what conditions?

Either with or without a ban, a framework for handling E-scrap must be in place. If the E-scrap Stakeholder Workgroup chooses to pursue an E-scrap disposal ban, they must also consider the impact. The E-scrap Framing Committee believes that goals that are more productive are to use our collective time and resources to develop ideas for an E-scrap infrastructure and public education methods to support that infrastructure. Even with the support of stakeholders, it may be difficult to get an E-scrap ban adopted. The E-scrap Stakeholder Workgroup must consider alternatives that can succeed without a ban in place.

In the end, each member of the E-scrap Framing Committee and Stakeholder Workgroup is looking for an option that will best serve our collective interest in enhancing Missouri's economy and protecting the environment.



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